

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hsu (US 6,478,630).

With regard to claims 1, 8, Hsu (US 6,478,630) discloses a memory card connector (1), comprising:

an insulative housing (10) having a terminal-mounting section which mounts a plurality of conductive terminals (11) having contact portions (111) for engaging appropriate contacts on a memory card (2) and which at least in part defines a card-receiving cavity (Fig. 1) for receiving the memory card;

a card eject mechanism (13) including a slider (131) movably mounted on the housing and engageable with the memory card for movement therewith into and out of the cavity between an inserted connection position and a withdrawal position, and an ejection spring (130) to bias the slider and memory card in an ejection direction toward said withdrawal position;

a catch means (151, 152) for catching the memory card in its movement in said ejection direction and preventing the memory card from moving under inertia beyond said withdrawal position; and

a metal shell (14) mounted on the housing (10) and combining therewith to define said cavity having a front insertion opening to permit insertion and withdrawal of the memory card (2) into and out of the connector, said catch means being integral with the metal shell.

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With regard to claims 2, 9, Hsu (US 6,478,630) discloses that said catch means (151,152) is located (Fig. 1) near the front insertion opening of the cavity).

With regard to claims 3, 10, Hsu (US 6,478,630) discloses that said shell (14,140) is stamped and formed from sheet metal material and the catch means (151,152) is stamped and formed therefrom.

With regard to claims 5, 12, Hsu (US 6,478,630) discloses that catch member comprises a cantilevered leaf spring (152).

With regard to claims 6, 13, Hsu (US 6,478,630) discloses that said metal shell (14) includes a top wall (140) and at least one side wall (142), and the catch means is stamped and formed from the top wall (140) of the shell.

With regard to claims 7,14, Hsu (US 6,478,630) discloses that said catch means comprises a cantilevered spring (152).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu (US 6,478,630) in view of Yu or Hsu (US 6,478,630) .

With regard to claims 4, 11, Hsu (US 6,478,630) discloses that said catch means comprise a catch member (151,152) integral with the metal shell (140) engageable with a recess (60d) in the memory card (60).

Hsu (US 6,478,630) does not explicitly a card with a recess (notch, cutout). The cards with a

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recess (For example, Yu (US 2004/0014342, Fig. 1); Hsu (US 6,663,403, r.n. 60) can be used with Hsu (US 6,478,630). Providing card with a recess (notch, cutout) is convenient for positioning a card in the connector.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander D. Gilman whose telephone number is 571 272-2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571 272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alexander D Gilman/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2833

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